

Message Text

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P 310046Z DEC 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: TECH, IS

SUBJECT: BIRD, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

1. AS REPORTED SEPTTEL, U.S. DIRECTORS OF BIRD WILL MEET JANUARY 6 TO CONSIDER INTER ALIA THE STATUS OF BLACKMAN'S EMPLOYMENT. COMMERCE DEPARTMENT HAS PROVIDED THE FOLLOWING DESCRIPTION AND ASSESSMENT OF THE POSSIBLE METHODS FOR HIRING BLACKMAN.

2. TWO OPTIONS FOR EMPLOYMENT OF U.S. CITIZEN AS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF BIRD ARE PRESENTLY UNDER CONSIDERATION. (FYI: ANOTHER OPTION, NAMELY TO HIRE BLACKMAN AS DOC EMPLOYEE AND DETAIL HIM TO BIRD IN TEL AVIV WITHOUT USG STATUS WHILE IN ISRAEL, WAS FOUND TO BE IMPRACTICABLE AND IS NO LONGER UNDER CONSIDERATION. END FYI.)

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THE ESSENTIAL ELEMENTS OF EACH ARE AS FOLLOWS:

(1) U.S. DOC EMPLOYEE (GS-18)

(2) EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT TO ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY FOR BINATIONAL R&D ACTIVITY

(3) DUTY STATION ISRAEL

THE FOREIGN ASSISTANCE ACT WHILE MAINTAINING STATUS AS
U.S. CIVIL SERVICE/DOC EMPLOYEE.

(5) RECEIVES ALL BENEFITS OF U.S. EMPLOYEE STATIONED IN
ISRAEL, E.G., HOUSING ALLOWANCE, COMMISSARY PRIVILEGES,
DUTY-FREE STATUS, RELOCATION ALLOWANCE.

(6) BIRD FOUNDATION TO AGREE TO REIMBURSE U.S. GOVERNMENT
FOR ALL COSTS ASSOCIATED WITH EMPLOYMENT.

B. OPTION II

ENTER INTO FURTHER NEGOTIATIONS FOR DIRECT EMPLOYMENT
OF EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR UNDER CONTRACT WITH THE BIRD.
IT IS ENVISIONED CONTRACT WOULD REFLECT BASIC CONTENT
OF PREVIOUS DRAFTS.

3. NOTE THAT OPTION I, WHICH ENVISIONS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
AS U.S. DOC EMPLOYEE, OFFERS SIGNIFICANT COST SAVINGS
TO THE BIRD AS IT EXEMPTS THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR FROM
SUBSTANTIAL U.S. AND ISRAELI TAX BURDENS. IN ADDITION,
IT DOES NOT PLACE INSUPERABLE DOMESTIC POLITICAL BURDEN
ON ISRAEL ARISING FROM POSSIBLE DOMESTIC CRITICISM OF
BENEFITS PACKAGE AND TOTAL CONTRACT COST SINCE SAME IS
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OFFERED AS A FUNCTION OF U.S. GOVERNMENT EMPLOYMENT. ALSO
OPTION I ALLOWS FOR IMMEDIATE ACTION TO SECURE SERVICES
OF EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR WITHOUT THE NECESSITY OF FURTHER
NEGOTIATIONS WITH BOG MEMBERS AND BLACKMAN REGARDING OPTION
II CONTRACT TERMS. BOG, HOWEVER, WOULD HAVE TO APPROVE
A CONDITION OF EMPLOYMENT AGREEMENT PROVIDING FOR BIRD
REIMBURSEMENT TO DOC OF ALL ASSOCIATED COSTS. FINALLY,
IT IS NOTED THAT BLACKMAN'S INSTRUCTIONS FROM THE ASSISTANT
SECRETARY FOR SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY WOULD ASSURE THAT HE
NOT BE AN ACTIVE PART OF THE U.S. GOVERNMENT COMMUNITY. HE
WOULD BE INSTRUCTED TO MEET REGULARLY WITH APPROPRIATE
EMBASSY PERSONNEL TO KEEP THEM INFORMED OF ALL ACTIVITIES;
AND, INsofar AS HE IS AN EMPLOYEE OF THE U.S. GOVERNMENT,
HE WOULD BE RESPONSIBLE TO THE AMBASSADOR AS WELL AS TO THE
ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY.

4. OPTION II PROVIDES FOR DIRECT EMPLOYMENT BY BIRD OF
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR UNDER THE TERMS OF A NEGOTIATED CONTRACT,
THE FINAL FORM OF WHICH WOULD REFLECT THE BASIC CONTENT
OF THE EXISTING DRAFTS. SUBSTANTIAL NEGOTIATION WITH BOG
MEMBERS AND WITH BLACKMAN WOULD PROBABLY BE NECESSARY TO
REACH CLOSURE ON CONTRACT TERMS. OPTION II DIVORCES THE

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR FROM U.S. GOVERNMENT STATUS, THEREBY
AVOIDING ANY APPEARANCE OF A CONFLICT OF INTEREST FROM
U.S. GOVERNMENT EMPLOYMENT STATUS WHILE SERVING AS

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR.FURTHER, IT AVOIDS PLACING UPON THE EM-
BASSY LOGISTICAL SUPPORT RESPONSIBILITIES AND WOULD INVOLVE
ONLY GENERAL OVERSIGHT AND COORDINATION BY SCIATT.

5. ACTION REQUESTED: PLEASE REPLY BY COB WEDNESDAY,
JANUARY 4 TO THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS:

(A) WHICH OPTION IS PREFERABLE TO THE EMBASSY AND WHY?

(B) WOULD THE LESS PREFERABLE OF THE TWO OPTIONS NONETHE-
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LESS BE ACCEPTABLE TO THE EMBASSY?

(C) IF BIRD/BOG CHOSE OPTION I, DOES EMBASSY RECOMMEND
THE INCLUSION OF ANY SPECIFIC CONDITIONS, CONSTRAINTS,
OR PROCEDURES TO GOVERN THE ACTIVITIES OF A DOC EMPLOYEE
ASSIGNED TO THE BIRD?

(D) IF OPTION I WERE SELECTED, COULD THE EMBASSY, IN
FACT, PROVIDE APPROPRIATE HOUSING FOR A DOC EMPLOYEE?

(E) PLEASE PROVIDE ANY ADDITIONAL COMMENTS EMBASSY FEELS
SHOULD BE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT BY DEPARTMENT AND/OR U.S.
BOARD MEMBERS. CHRISTOPHER

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